

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1-7 and 10-13 were objected to because of informalities pointed out by the Examiner. Claims 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for reasons noted by the Examiner. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ohshima (USP 5,268,595), and claims 1, 6 and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohshima in view of Sudo (US2002/0140402).

Claims 2-5, 7 and 14-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The drawings filed with the application were accepted by the Examiner.

The transmittal letter submitting the present application claims priority of Japanese Application No. 2002-330847 filed November 14, 2002. In the next Office Action, applicant respectfully requests acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority. A certified copy of the priority application will be submitted in due course to perfect the foreign priority claim.

In accordance with this response, claims 1-8, 10-13 and 17 have been amended to overcome the objections and indefiniteness rejection noted by the Examiner and to more particularly point out the novelty of the present invention. Claims 9 and 14-16 have not been amended though remain pending in the application.

Applicant and applicant's attorney acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter and also the Examiner's kind assistance in pointing out informalities in the claims.

The claim amendments made herein overcome each of the objections noted by the Examiner as well as the indefiniteness rejection of claims 8-9. The only change suggested by the Examiner that has not been made is that pertaining to claims 14 and 16. In these claims, "the input terminals" cannot be changed to --first and second terminals-- as in the case of claim 1 since base claim 8 does not provide antecedence for the first and second terminals. Unlike claim 1, claim 8 refers to input terminals rather than first and second terminals. Thus claims 14 and 16, as presently worded, are believed to be in proper form, and applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection made to these claims.

Original independent claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ohshima. Claim 8

has been amended to patentably distinguish over Ohshima. As amended, claim 8 recites a second output circuit connected between the output terminal and one of the input terminals for varying a resistance value between the output terminal and one of the input terminals based on the voltage across the input terminals. No corresponding circuit is disclosed by Ohshima.

The Ohshima voltage detecting circuit shown in Fig. 5, as applied by the Examiner in rejecting original claim 8, has a second output circuit R23 for outputting a second output signal at node N21 that changes in value based on the voltage of the power supply voltage Vdd. The second output circuit R23 comprises a clamping resistor connected between the input terminal Vdd and the output terminal N21; however, the resistor R23 does not vary a resistance value between the output terminal and the input terminal based on the voltage across the input terminals Vdd and GND. Instead, the resistance value of the resistor R23 is fixed, and the resistor R23 functions as a clamping resistor to stabilize the output signal Sout.

As Ohshima does not disclose a second output circuit as required by amended claim 8, the reference does not anticipate the claim under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion in Ohshima to modify the voltage detecting circuit to provide a second output circuit

corresponding that required by claim 8. In view thereof, claim 8 and the claims dependent thereon patentably distinguish over Ohshima.

Original independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohshima in view of Sudo. As amended, claim 1 requires a first output circuit connected between first and second terminals for outputting a first output signal on the basis of a comparison output signal output by a comparator, an output terminal for outputting the first output signal, and a second output circuit connected between the output terminal and one of the first and second terminals for outputting a second output signal that changes in value on the basis of a first signal and a second signal at the first and second terminals, respectively. No similar circuitry is disclosed or suggested by the combined teachings of Ohshima and Sudo.

In applying Ohshima against original claim 1, the Examiner read the clamping resistor R23 as corresponding to the claimed second output circuit. However, as amended, claim 1 requires a second output circuit connected between the output terminal and one of the first and second terminals for outputting a second output signal that changes in value on the basis of a first signal and a second signal at the first terminal and the second terminal, respectively. No such

second output circuit is disclosed by Ohshima. In the reference, the second output circuit comprised of the resistor R23 connected between the output terminal N21 and the input terminal Vdd does not output a second output signal that changes in value on the basis of first and second signals at the terminals Vdd and GND.

The secondary reference to Sudo has been applied for its teaching of using a battery as a power supply voltage source; however, Sudo does not cure the deficiencies of Ohshima. Thus the combined teachings of Ohshima and Sudo do not disclose or render obvious the voltage detecting circuit of independent claim 1 and the claims depended thereon.

In view of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date